

55. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein fluid is transported from the remote area to the medical treatment site.

56. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the fluid comprises a medicament.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein the medicament comprises an antimicrobial, an antiseptic, an analgesic, a vitamin, a steroid, a growth factor, a nutrient, a flushing solution, or any combination of any of the foregoing.

58. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein fluid is transported from the medical treatment site to the remote area and from the remote area to the medical treatment site.

fluid is also (1/20/99)

59. (New) The method of claim 51 further comprising visually observing the medical treatment site.

60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein at least a portion of the medical treatment article is transparent and the step of visually observing the medical treatment article comprises visually observing the medical treatment site through the transparent portion of the medical treatment article.

Remarks

The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Ser. No. 09/235,720, filed January 22, 1999.

Claims 1-35 are in the application. Claims 1-35 have been canceled.

Claims 36-60 have been added.

Claims 36-60 are under consideration.

The new claims are supported throughout the specification. In particular, claims 36-38, 46, and 51-53 are supported by the specification at page 5, line 22 through page 6, line 24 and page 38, lines 13-31. Claims 39-42 are supported by the specification at page 15, line 18 through page 19, line 16. Claims 43-45 are supported by the specification at page 10, line 13 through page 11, line 6. Claims 47 and 55-58 are supported by the specification at page 35, lines 15-20. Claim 48 is supported by the specification at page 35, line 1 through page 36,

line 1. Claims 49, 50, 59 and 60 are supported by the specification at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 1. Claim 54 is supported by the specification at page 31, line 19 through page 32, line 7.

Applicants submit that subject matter the pending claims is novel and nonobvious and, therefore, patentable. Thus, favorable action on the pending claims is kindly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment prior to substantive examination is kindly requested. Examination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Registration Number 43,643	Telephone Number 651/733-1507
Date <i>September 20, 2001</i>	

Respectfully submitted,

By *Christopher D. Gram*
Christopher D. Gram

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427
Facsimile: (651) 736-3833